



LANCASTER

Worcester County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Lancaster is a bedroom community serving the more urban Clinton, Leominster and Worcester. The town has little industry, but does contain some working farms.

Lancaster offers a spread of municipal services to its residents, and the school system, which includes one elementary and one middle school, has long held a high reputation for academic excellence, although municipal budget cuts are causing concern among residents about the continuance of the town's school standards. The town's high school students attend the Nashoba Valley Regional High School, which also has a strong academic reputation.

Lancaster is the site of a half-dozen private schools, including South Lancaster Academy, the Dr. Franklin Perkins School, a comprehensive service agency for children, adolescents, adults and senior citizens, and the Atlantic Union College, a Seventh-Day Adventist school. A significant number of town residents are Adventists and the group hosts a gathering of their co-religionists from around the country each summer.

Lancaster has only one restaurant and no taverns, having been a dry town since its incorporation in 1653. As residents note, "It's a quiet, little town."

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

North central Massachusetts, bordered by Lunenburg and Shirley on the north, Harvard and Bolton on the east, Clinton on the south, and Sterling and Leominster on the west. Lancaster is about 18 miles north of Worcester, 36 miles west of Boston, and 192 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 28.20 sq. miles

Land Area: 27.68 sq. miles

Population: 6,661

Density: 241 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Clinton Station)

Normal temperature in January.....23.4°F
Normal temperature in July.....71.3°F
Normal annual precipitation.....47.0"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Clinton, Shirley

Regional Planning Agency

Montachusett

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 365-2542

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen
Executive Secretary
Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1653

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%
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Total Registered 3,025

Democrats 594 19.6 % Republicans 635 21.0 % Other parties 0 0.0 % Unenrolled Voters 1,796 59.4 %

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Lancaster town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	7,380	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	7,380	100.0
Male.....	4,112	55.7	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	549	7.4
Female.....	3,268	44.3	Mexican.....	7	0.1
Under 5 years.....	367	5.0	Puerto Rican.....	345	4.7
5 to 9 years.....	464	6.3	Cuban.....	39	0.5
10 to 14 years.....	509	6.9	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	158	2.1
15 to 19 years.....	493	6.7	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	6,831	92.6
20 to 24 years.....	592	8.0	White alone.....	5,943	80.5
25 to 34 years.....	1,130	15.3	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,481	20.1	Total population.....	7,380	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,029	13.9	In households.....	5,738	77.8
55 to 59 years.....	330	4.5	Householder.....	2,049	27.8
60 to 64 years.....	252	3.4	Spouse.....	1,313	17.8
65 to 74 years.....	377	5.1	Child.....	1,903	25.8
75 to 84 years.....	234	3.2	Own child under 18 years.....	1,443	19.6
85 years and over.....	122	1.7	Other relatives.....	224	3.0
Median age (years).....	35.9	(X)	Under 18 years.....	74	1.0
18 years and over.....	5,775	78.3	Nonrelatives.....	249	3.4
Male.....	3,256	44.1	Unmarried partner.....	87	1.2
Female.....	2,519	34.1	In group quarters.....	1,642	22.2
21 years and over.....	5,421	73.5	Institutionalized population.....	1,303	17.7
62 years and over.....	881	11.9	Noninstitutionalized population.....	399	4.6
65 years and over.....	733	9.9	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	288	3.9	Total households.....	2,049	100.0
Female.....	445	6.0	Family households (families).....	1,552	75.7
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	745	36.4
One race.....	7,233	98.0	Married-couple family.....	1,313	64.1
White.....	6,237	84.5	With own children under 18 years.....	640	31.2
Black or African American.....	783	10.6	Female householder, no husband present.....	168	8.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	14	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	70	3.4
Asian.....	85	1.2	Nonfamily households.....	497	24.3
Asian Indian.....	12	0.2	Householder living alone.....	392	19.1
Chinese.....	15	0.2	Householder 65 years and over.....	164	8.0
Filipino.....	1	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	800	39.0
Japanese.....	7	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	479	23.4
Korean.....	15	0.2	Average household size.....	2.80	(X)
Vietnamese.....	4	0.1	Average family size.....	3.22	(X)
Other Asian ¹	31	0.4	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	2,141	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	2,049	95.7
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	92	4.3
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	38	1.8
Some other race.....	114	1.5	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.6	(X)
Two or more races.....	147	2.0	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.2	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	2,049	100.0
White.....	6,361	86.2	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,622	79.2
Black or African American.....	821	11.1	Renter-occupied housing units.....	427	20.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	34	0.5	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.92	(X)
Asian.....	105	1.4	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.35	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	3	-			
Some other race.....	208	2.8			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	70
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Located in the Worcester area, which has three major cross-state highways: the Worcester Turnpike (Route 9), Route 20, and the Massachusetts Turnpike. I-495 borders to the east, I-190 connects to the Fitchburg-Leominster area, I-84 and I-395 connect to Connecticut and points south. The region is well connected by rail and highway to the ports, airports, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence.

Major Highways

Principal highways are Interstate 190, which runs along the western border with Leominster; State Route 2, which runs E-W across northern Massachusetts; and State Routes 70, 110, and 117.

Rail

Commuter rail service to North Station, Boston, is available in the neighboring towns of Leominster (travel time 78-87 min.; 60 MBTA parking spaces) and Shirley (travel time 71-79 min.; 60 MBTA parking spaces). Freight rail service is available from the Springfield Terminal Railway. Contact number: (978) 663-1073

Bus

Lancaster is a member of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MRTA). There is no fixed route service, but MRTA provides paratransit services to the elderly and disabled through the Council on Aging.

Other

The Shirley Airport, a privately owned public use facility, is easily accessible from Lancaster. It has a 3,250'x 55' asphalt runway with a copter approach.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

(American Association of Museums)

Fifth Meeting House

Town Common

(978) 365-2427

MUSEUMS

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

River Terrace Healthcare N.H.

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.